

In the Claims

1-56 (canceled).

57 (new). An isolated polypeptide comprising:

- a) SEQ ID NO: 2;
- b) SEQ ID NO: 4;
- c) an amino acid sequence having at least 85% identity to SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4 and having notch-like activity, wherein said percent identity is calculated with respect to the full length sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4;
- d) a fusion protein comprising a heterologous sequence and a polypeptide as set forth in a) or b) or c); or
- e) a polypeptide as set forth in a) or b) or c) or d), wherein said polypeptide further comprises radioactive labels, fluorescent labels, biotin or cytotoxic agents.

58 (new). The isolated polypeptide according to claim 57, wherein said polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 2.

59 (new). The isolated polypeptide according to claim 57, wherein said polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 4.

60 (new). The isolated polypeptide according to claim 57, wherein said polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 85% identity to SEQ ID NO: 2 and has notch-like activity, wherein said percent identity is calculated with respect to the full length sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

61 (new). The isolated polypeptide according to claim 57, wherein said polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 85% identity to SEQ ID NO: 4 and has notch-like

activity, wherein said percent identity is calculated with respect to the full length sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

62 (new). The isolated polypeptide according to claim 57, wherein said polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 2 fused to a heterologous sequence.

63 (new). The isolated polypeptide according to claim 57, wherein said polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO: 4 fused to a heterologous sequence.

64 (new). The isolated polypeptide according to claim 57, wherein said polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence fused to a heterologous sequence, said amino acid sequence having at least 85% identity to SEQ ID NO: 2 and has notch-like activity, wherein said percent identity is calculated with respect to the full length sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

65 (new). The isolated polypeptide according to claim 57, wherein said polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence fused to a heterologous sequence, said amino acid sequence having at least 85% identity to SEQ ID NO: 4 and has notch-like activity, wherein said percent identity is calculated with respect to the full length sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

66 (new). The isolated polypeptide according to claim 60, wherein said amino acid sequence has at least 95% identity to SEQ ID NO: 2.

67 (new). The isolated polypeptide according to claim 61, wherein said amino acid sequence has at least 95% identity to SEQ ID NO: 4.

68 (new). An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising:

- a) SEQ ID NO: 2;
- b) SEQ ID NO: 4;

- c) an amino acid sequence having at least 85% identity to SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4 and having notch-like activity, wherein said percent identity is calculated with respect to the full length sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4; or
- d) a fusion protein comprising a heterologous sequence and a polypeptide as set forth in a) or b) or c).

69 (new). The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 68, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 2.

70 (new). The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 68, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 4.

71 (new). The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 68, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 85% identity to SEQ ID NO: 2 and has notch-like activity, wherein said percent identity is calculated with respect to the full length sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

72 (new). The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 68, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having at least 85% identity to SEQ ID NO: 4 and has notch-like activity, wherein said percent identity is calculated with respect to the full length sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

73 (new). The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 68, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 2 fused to a heterologous sequence.

74 (new). The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 68, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 4 fused to a heterologous sequence.

75 (new). The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 68, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence fused to a heterologous sequence, said amino acid sequence having at least 85% identity to SEQ ID NO: 2 and has notch-like activity, wherein said percent identity is calculated with respect to the full length sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

76 (new). The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 68, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence fused to a heterologous sequence, said amino acid sequence having at least 85% identity to SEQ ID NO: 4 and has notch-like activity, wherein said percent identity is calculated with respect to the full length sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

77 (new). The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 75, wherein said amino acid sequence has at least 95% identity to SEQ ID NO: 2.

78 (new). The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 76, wherein said amino acid sequence has at least 95% identity to SEQ ID NO: 4.

79 (new). A vector comprising the nucleic acid according to claim 68.

80 (new). An isolated host cell comprising nucleic acid sequence according to claim 68.